

What if I don't want FISS services – I want to go to court?

The court will not accept your petition before you have participated in services offered by the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) or the Delinquency Court Services (DCS).

If after my family has participated in services through BMCW or DCS there is no improvement, and I still want my teenager removed from my home, what do I do?

If after working with BMCW or DCS, the situation with your teenager has not improved, you can ask the agency staff working with your family to help you file a pro se petition with the court to intervene.

My teenager is not going to school. Can I file a CHIPS or JIPS petition to keep from being fined or charged?

No, you still may be fined or charged. However, the district attorney may refer you to FISS or may consider your participation in FISS as a positive effort and not fine/charge you.

What can I do if I need help with my child who is under the age of 12?

For younger children with behavior challenges, seek assistance from the child's school, your medical care provider, or community-based agencies working with children.

Definitions

CHIPS – Child in Need of Protection and Services. Abused/neglected children under the age of 18 can be protected by court orders under CHIPS.

JIPS – Juvenile in Need of Protection and Services. Children ages 10 through 17 who are delinquent or at-risk of delinquency.

Family Intervention Support and Services (FISS) (414) 257-4319



**Is your teenager out of control?
Are you seeking court intervention?**

Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services
9201 W. Watertown Plank Road, Suite 408
Milwaukee, WI 53226



**Division of Safety and Permanence
Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare**

The problem is that my teenager (age 12 through 17) . . .

- Skips school.
- Comes and goes as he/she pleases and leaves the house without permission.
- Lies and is disrespectful.
- Fights and argues with everyone.
- Is using drugs/alcohol.
- Is sexually active.
- Runs away.
- Stays out all night.

I have tried . . .

- Getting help from my church and community agencies.
- Working with my child's school.
- Talking to my child's doctor about options.
- Checking with my medical insurance to see what types of services are covered, such as family or individual counseling.

And my child is still out of control.

I want to go to court to ask that my child be removed from my home due to behavioral problems. What do I do?

The judges require parents who seek court intervention for their teenagers to be referred to the FISS program.

Referral to court is limited to those families who have gone through the FISS assessment and fully participated in the services offered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare – Safety Services program or the Milwaukee County Department of Human Services – Delinquency and Court Services.

What is FISS?

The goal of Family Intervention Support and Services (FISS) is to find services outside of the court system for families struggling with the behavioral challenges of teenagers. FISS provides an assessment of the needs of both the teenager and the parents/guardians and refers them to appropriate services in the community.

Is there a charge for FISS services?

No, the assessment and referral are free.

When I call the FISS program, what will happen?

The FISS program will make an appointment at Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services to conduct an assessment. You and your teenager are required to participate in the assessment. It is helpful if both parents participate.

How long will it take to schedule an assessment?

In most cases, the assessment can be done within 48 hours of your call. Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services will work with your family to select a convenient time for your assessment.

What happens after the assessment is completed?

The FISS program will refer your family to one of the following options:

1. Community resources and/or your medical insurance provider to see which of the recommended services they would cover for you.
2. Your child's assigned school to assist with school issues.
3. The FISS services unit in-home program.
4. The Milwaukee County Department of Human Services Delinquency Court Services.
5. The Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare Access unit.

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